REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on February 4, 2005, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 8, 15 are amended, no claims are canceled, and Claims 20-23 are added; as a result, Claims 1-23 are now pending in this application.

Section 102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 8-11, 13, and 15-19 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Thompson et al. (U.S. Patent 5,441,070). Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 from which Claims 2-4, 9-11, and 16-19 respectively depend. Applicants contend that Claims 1-4, 8-11, 13, and 15-19 are neither taught nor suggested by Thompson.

Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended to reflect that the present invention utilizes a single user demand detector. Thompson neither teaches nor suggests a fluid management system utilizing a single user demand detector. To the contrary, Thompson specifically requires a plurality of flow sensors. In fact, each water utilization device in Thompson has a plurality of flow sensors – one for the hot water line and one for the cold water line. Column 5, lines 62-68.

The multiple flow sensors required in Thompson create exactly the kind of complexity that the present invention seeks to avoid. The cost of producing and installing a fluid management system with a plurality of flow sensors can be prohibitively expensive. Moreover, the complexity of the system makes it significantly more expensive and difficult to maintain than the present invention. Each flow sensor in Thompson is connected by wire to a management device 100. See Figure 1. The average residential structure will have a significant number of wires running from the management device 100 to each of the flow sensors. Installing all the wires is an extremely time consuming and expensive endeavor, especially in an already existing home. Many commercial structures will be larger and have even more flow sensors, requiring even more wiring.

The present invention, on the other hand, utilizes a single user demand detector. The single user demand detector can be positioned in close proximity to the other elements of the present invention (pressure decay detector, shut-off valve, etc.), as shown in Figure 1, so that the

present invention can be easily placed in a single housing structure. Thus, the entire leak detection system can be more easily installed and maintained than the system in Thompson.

Section 103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 5, 7, 12, and 14 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thompson et al.(U.S. Patent 5,441,070). Applicant contends that these claims are patentable over Thompson for the same reasons stated above pertaining to Claims 1-4, 8-11, 13, and 15-19.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (989-297-1298) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3019

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 4 day of May, 2005

Chris Hammond
Name

Chi Hammond
Signature